

## NEWS RELEASE

**INDIANA  
WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT**



For Immediate Release: March 8, 2004

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Joseph E. Kernan, Governor

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### ***Kernan Energizes Vincennes Region with Workforce Development Grant***

Indianapolis, Ind. – Gov. Joe Kernan today awarded \$372,600 in Energizing Indiana's Workforce funds to the Shawnee Trace Workforce Investment Board to increase training opportunities in south central Indiana.

Awarded through the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, the Shawnee Trace Workforce Investment Board (WIB) represents Daviess, Dubois, Gibson, Greene, Knox, Lawrence, Martin, Pike and Sullivan counties. It will use the grant to establish community-based centers to assess the skills of area workers and offer training in skills needed to work in the life sciences, advanced manufacturing, high-tech distribution and information technology industries.

"The Shawnee Trace WIB has taken a thoughtful approach to determining the needs of their regional workforce," said Kernan. "As a result, the WIB has found an innovative solution to meet the training needs for the regional workforce. We are pleased to partner with Shawnee Trace in this exciting endeavor."

Energizing Indiana's Workforce grants are one-time grants appropriated from federal funds. The grant is designed to encourage the state's WIBs to create stronger links between economic and workforce development. Specifically, the funds are used to support efforts to upgrade the skills of the Hoosier workforce in the four industry sectors: life sciences, advanced manufacturing, high-tech distribution and information technology.

"The Energize funding being made available by Governor Kernan will add significantly to our ability to meet the workforce needs in our nine county area," said Chuck Roche, Shawnee Trace WIB director. "To maintain a strong economy here in Southern Indiana we must be able to respond to the skill training and skill upgrading of the workforce," he added. According to Roche the funds will provide a strong economic development tool to area communities seeking to retain and attract skilled qualified workers needed by locally based companies.

Governor Kernan added, "It's also important to note that this grant also supports the goals the state's new workforce development initiative, Indiana@Work. By providing this funding to the WIBs, we can more easily work together to develop programs to support the needs of our workers and employers."

Indiana@Work is comprehensive workforce development plan, announced by the governor in his State-of-the-State address. The program combines the efforts of DWD and the Indiana Department of Commerce in an effort to match jobseekers with companies that have openings. It also provides training funds to businesses, for potential employees who are facing a "skills gap" that could keep them from attaining higher-pay jobs. And, eventually, Indiana@Work will help workers develop "e-resumes" that they can carry with them throughout their careers.

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Through its various programs and initiatives, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates a statewide job placement service.

For more information on this, or any other DWD program, contact Jeff Harris at 317/232-3396 or visit the web site at [www.workforce.IN.gov](http://www.workforce.IN.gov).

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